

SHINTŌ IN THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF JAPAN

BY RONALD S. GREEN — KEY ISSUES IN ASIAN STUDIES BOOK SERIES

SUGGESTED COURSES:

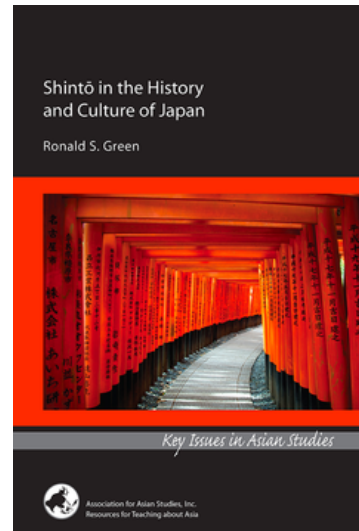
- Religion
- History - East Asia
- Anthropology

KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:

- Kami
- Mikoshi
- Jinja
- Matsuri
- Purification (Harae)
- Amaterasu Ōmikami
- Impurity (Kegare)
- Izanagi and Izanami
- Sectarian Shintō
- Himiko
- Inari
- Izumo Grand Shrine
- Kojiki (Record of Ancient Matters)
- Magatama
- Shimenawa
- Torii

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In ancient Japanese mythology, what and where is Yomi?
2. Who or what is Amaterasu and how is this related to the imperial family in Japan?
3. When are Shintō festivals held and what activities are typically involved?
4. How was Shintō impacted by Japan's loss of WWII?
5. What is the Emperor's position relative to Shintō?
6. Himiko, the famous shamaness queen, is the first historical ruler of Japan. What did she do and where is her story found?
7. How did Buddhism and Shintō interact in Japan and why?
8. What is the role of kitsune (fox spirits) in Shintō?
9. Miko shrine maidens are popular characters in anime. What are their past and present roles in Shintō?
10. What relationships have existed between Shintō and Japanese nationalism?
11. How is Shugendō mountain asceticism related to Shintō?



Paperback
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108 pages

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<https://www.asianstudies.org/store/shinto-in-the-history-and-culture-of-japan/>

EXTERNAL LINKS & RESOURCES:

- <https://fore.yale.edu/World-Religions/Shinto>
- <https://pluralism.org/shinto>
- <https://open.library.okstate.edu/interculturalcommunication/chapter/history/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbJUgCtZNHc>

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5. THE MATERIAL CULTURE OF SHINTŌ
6. RITUALS AND EVENTS IN THE LIVES OF CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE
7. CONTEMPORARY SHINTŌ AND THE FUTURE

“Ron Green begins his volume with: ‘What is Shintō?’ A simple question with many possible answers. It’s nature worship, a tool of the military, the catalyst for modest and magnificent shrines. It’s a religion; it’s not a religion. It’s Japanese; it’s universal. In seven succinct chapters, Professor Green answers his question, leaving the reader nodding with understanding and yearning to learn more.”

– GARY DECKER, *ASIANetwork*

“An excellent introduction for laypersons and an extraordinarily comprehensive discussion of all aspects of Shintō, couched in language that makes it readily accessible to all readers”

– STEPHEN KOHL, *University of Oregon*

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